



• INFO memo - Nov. 7, 2003

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Lengthy Project Work Pays Off for Cops, Kids

For many, many weeks Sgt. Mick Henderson of the Broken Arrow Police Department has been compiling a list of items in the Property Room which had exceeded the limits of time kept before belonging to the City. He presented that list to Tulsa County District Court Judge Gregory Frizzell with a request that the property be “unencumbered” so that the City could donate it to area kids in need.

And, just in time for the holiday season, Judge Frizzell issued a favorable ruling Nov. 5. Henderson stated in a memo to BAPD Chief Todd Wuestewald that “approximately 80 bicycles” would now be donated to the Broken Arrow Optimist Club, which “will refurbish them and give them to needy children who reside in the Indian Springs Apartments.”

Bicycles are not the only items on the list, Henderson went on to explain. The others will be relinquished to the Property Bureau, which will pick up the items at the Police Property Room at City Hall and place them on-line at www.stealitback.com.

This web site gives citizens an opportunity to report missing items and see if a match can be found from Police property rooms around the country.

“As you are aware,” said Henderson in his memo, “this is our first ever list of items to be placed on-line. My speculation is that most of the items on the list just approved have been in our custody for years, and have limited value. The revenue that the sale of these items generates for the City may be small, but as we purge the older and less valuable items and begin submitting the more recently acquired items of value, the revenue will increase accordingly.”

Henderson said that he has already begun compiling a second list, which will include even more bicycles. The property room has been bulging at the seams, and will soon be replaced by a more spacious area in the Justice Center under construction south of the police station on South First Place.

Getting rid of as many of these items as possible will make the transition much easier, and should make the holidays a lot brighter for kids getting the bicycles.

In concluding, Henderson stated, "I rank the granting of this court order as one of our most substantial accomplishments."

Wuestewald agreed. "Sgt. Henderson has done a good job of following through on this project. The City will benefit a little financially, and we will gain space in our property room. Even more important, some needy youngsters are going to have a much happier holiday."

City Employees Take Holiday, Honor Vets

City of Broken Arrow employees will honor the nation's military veterans Tuesday (Nov. 11) on Veterans Day, taking that day off as a holiday.

City Hall will be closed, as will most other City offices. The Police and Fire departments, of course, will be operating.

There will be no curbside trash pickup Tuesday. Those customers who normally have Tuesday-Friday pickups will have Wednesday-Friday service next week.

There will be a Veterans Day program at Broken Arrow Seniors, Inc., at The Main Place Monday night.

There are two memorials to veterans in City parks. A memorial listing those killed in the Vietnam War is located in Central Park, on the north side of the main parking lot. Veterans Park is across the street, and features the statue of World War II Medal of Honor winner Lt. Col. Ernest Childers. A second memorial for that park is being planned, one which will honor the women in the military.

City's United Way Total Tops Goal

As the 2003 Tulsa Area United Way drive nears its conclusion, City of Broken Arrow campaign chair Tom Caldwell announced this week that the City's goal had been met.

The goal this year was \$35,002. Caldwell said that more than \$35,400 had been raised, with a few totals still not in. The City's United Way Golf Tournament drew seven teams and will be played at Battle Creek Golf Course Nov. 11.

The Tulsa Area United Way campaign ends Nov. 12. Funds donated in Broken Arrow come back to Broken Arrow agencies which receive United Way funding. Last year the City became the first municipal government to serve as a Trailblazer.

Centennial Mural Adds Color, History to Downtown

The Broken Arrow Centennial Committee will hold its wrap-up meeting next Wednesday after more than three year's of work in planning a 12-month celebration. And while that meeting is wrapping up, so should work on the Centennial Mural, which is being painted on the south wall of Smitty's Western Wear.

Earlier this year the wall was stripped and repainted in preparation for the mural. Volunteer artists began the painting this week, and were hoping to get a full weekend of work in – although the weather forecast is not favorable.

The design for the mural was created by five students, selected last spring from all those who participated in the project. Those students who were selected are Kendra Reid, BA High School Senior 2003; Katlin Arnold, Westwood Elementary; Rachael Von Fange, Vandever Elementary; Chadd Gehrke, Childers Middle School; and Codie Cumbie, BA Academy.

Jo Ellen Clow, chair of the committee which worked through the Centennial planning to come up with the mural, said that it's hoped to have the mural completed in time for the Main Street Merchants Holiday Tea-Off, Nov. 13.

Climbing around on the scaffolding and wearing out their arms and legs in cold and sometimes rainy weather have been volunteers Phil Lile, who is in charge of the project; his wife Nancy Lile; and Jennifer Brown, Katie Pernu, Jane Harlow, Jennifer Deal, Juli Allen, Cindy Ghabrivand and Sue Forschen.

Smitty's is located on the northwest corner of the Main and Dallas intersection.

Oak Crest Partnership with City Produces 7 Readers

There have already been seven City employees who have started reading with Oak Crest Elementary students as part of the Partners In Education program between the school and the City.

This is the third year for the project, which partners City employees with students who need a little extra boost in reading. Each City worker is given an hour off to go to the school and read with one, two or three students. Teachers coordinate the program, selecting the students to get the help and providing the reading material.

Currently serving as reader partners are Valora Roark, Tavia Dooley, Wayne Bishop, Anita Nicely, Tonya Dauer, Marilyn Johnson and Debra Limon.

After her first session this week, Dooley stated, "This is a direct reflection on the kind of community we (at the City) are dedicated to building, and that can only come down from the top – down to be effective. I'm proud of our City leadership and foresight in acknowledging the value of these types of activities."